

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Dinosaur National Monument
Colorado/Utah

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Dinosaur

HIDING PLACES A tiny lizard will soon vanish into a chink between rough-hewn logs. Cattle rustlers followed secret "out-law trails" to disappear into hard-to-reach canyons, confounding lawmen who pursued them.

FREMONT PEOPLE carved petroglyphs into the "desert varnish" of cliffs. This six-foot lizard (left) dates from about 1,000 years ago.

ECHO PARK In the 1950s the Bureau of Reclamation proposed building a high dam downstream from here. It was part of a plan to develop the Upper Colorado River Basin.

ANCIENT REMAINS Sediments covered and preserved these leg bones of a Diplodocus (left) and an Apatosaurus within the Morrison Formation.

RARE FIND A fossilized skull (left) from the long-necked, long-tailed Jurassic dinosaur Camarasaurus that once roamed this area (below right).

Steamboat Rock marks the spectacular meeting place of the Green and Yampa rivers. As the rivers cut deep into the underlying rock layers, they exposed a dramatic geologic history of faults, folds, and uplifts. These events created the colorful array of living landscapes, soils, and water sources that you see today.

Rock layers preserve ancient plant and animal fossils from land and sea. Sandstone cliffs bear perplexing artworks that whisper of a more recent, human past. Falcons soar above waters where rare fish swim and bighorn sheep linger. Such riches led President Franklin Roosevelt, in 1938, to add over 200,000 acres of canyon country to the original 80 acres.

The Green is greatly increased by the Yampa ... and the waters waltz their way through the canyon, making their own rippling, rushing, roaring music.

John Wesley Powell, 1869

FLOWING LIVING WILD RIVERS AND CANYONS

Dinosaur National Monument includes one of Earth's richest known dinosaur fossil beds. These remains are from the Jurassic period 150 million years ago. During a drought, many dinosaurs died near a river's edge. When rains returned, floodwaters carried the jumbled bones of over 500 dinosaurs, representing ten species, here.

Ancient river sediments, now called Morrison sandstone, entombed the dinosaur bones. Minerals then filled the bones (though some organic material survived) and cast them in stone. Erosion eventually exposed the fossils. In 1909 Earl Douglass, of Pittsburgh's Carnegie Museum, declared this site "the best-looking dinosaur prospect I have ever found."

FIND 23 LAYERS OF TIME AND FOSSILS as you float Dinosaur National Monument's rivers and walk its trails. Local geologic conditions support unique habitats. Two plant species here live nowhere else on Earth.

Fossil Discovery Trail, Utah
Quarry Exhibit Hall, Utah >

Cub Creek Petroglyphs, Utah >

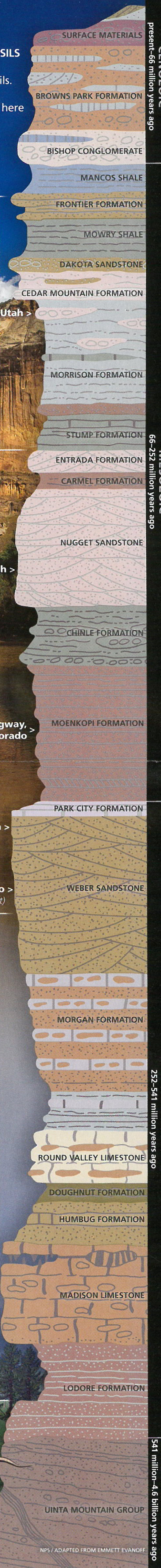
Echo Park Road dugway, Colorado >

Split Mountain boat ramp, Utah >

Steamboat Rock, Colorado >
(shown above left)

Mitten Park Fault, Colorado >

Gates of Lodore, Colorado >



EXPLORE DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT UTAH

DINOSAUR QUARRY

CUB CREEK ROAD

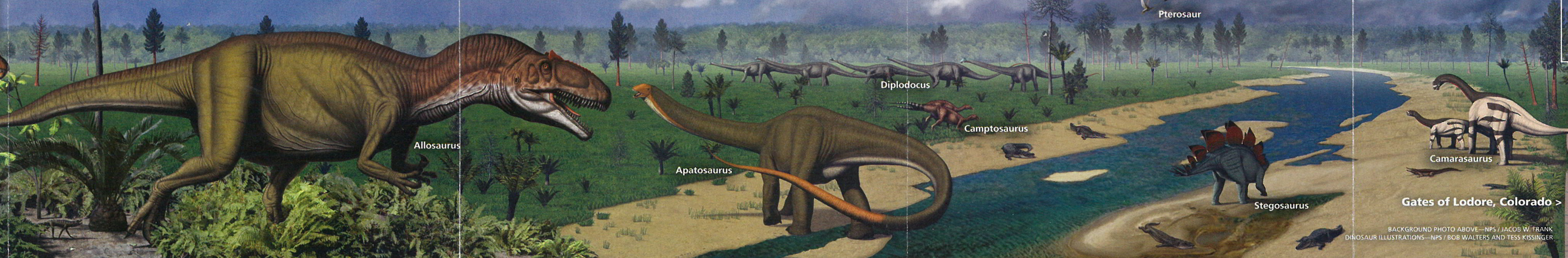
JONES HOLE TRAIL

EXPLORE DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT COLORADO

HARPERS CORNER TRAIL

YAMPA RIVER

GATES OF LODORE



The park straddles the border of Utah and Colorado—a remote area on the edge of the Uinta Basin. Its riches include the namesake Jurassic fossils, multi-hued canyons, and two rivers. Over one billion years, geologic lifting, warping, and erosion created a surprising, varied landscape where many plant and animal species thrive and the remains of ancient life can be seen. The park includes benchlands of the Green and Yampa rivers, which carved the deep canyons that thrill rafters, hikers, and wildlife and scenery lovers.

Wilderness Over 90 percent of the park is managed as wilderness, a gift to people today and to future generations. A formal designation by Congress as wilderness could protect forever the land's wild character, natural conditions, opportunities for solitude, and scientific, educational, and historical values. In wilderness people can sense being a part of the whole community of life on Earth.

Quarry Visitor Center Open year-round, this is the main visitor center. Start here—whether you've come to see dinosaur fossils or to learn about other places to explore.

Quarry Exhibit Hall Marvel at the great wall of bones with over 1,500 fossils embedded in the rock. You can even touch some of the 149-million-year-old fossils. Rangers are on duty to answer questions.

Safety and

Summer temperatures can exceed 100°F, with frequent afternoon thunderstorms. Carry and drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration. • Do not disturb or remove natural, historic, or cultural features. • Do not feed, hunt, trap, or harass wildlife. • Pets must be leashed at all times. They are not allowed in public buildings, on most trails, on the river, or in the backcountry.

Canyon Visitor Center Open seasonally, this visitor center, two miles east of Dinosaur, CO, is the gateway to the park's canyon country. It offers a film, bookstore, and information. ***This part of the monument has no dinosaur fossils.***

Harpers Corner Road winds 31 miles across sagebrush-covered plateaus to the brink of sheer-walled canyons. Several overlooks, some featuring trails, provide stunning views. Hike the two-mile roundtrip Harpers Corner Trail for a culminating experience. Echo Park and Yampa Bench roads are unpaved and require high-clearance vehicles. Roads may be impassable when wet—ask

about current road conditions at a visitor center. Gas, food, lodging, and supplies are unavailable inside the park.

Deerlodge Park, on the monument's eastern end, is the launch point for river trips (permits required) on the naturally flowing Yampa River. Spend a night at the campground and hike the primitive trails in this far corner of the park.

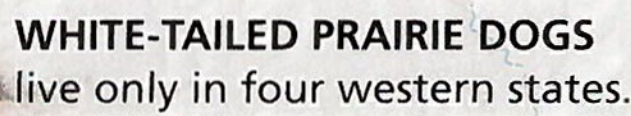
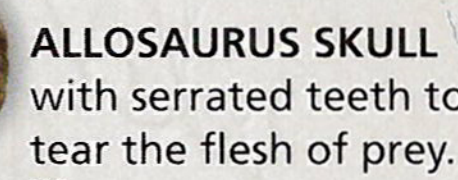
Gates of Lodore at the park's northern tip is the starting place for river trips (permits required) on the Green River. In 1869 John Wesley Powell floated through this dark, foreboding canyon. A majestic view rewards you at the end of a short hike from the campground.

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Never leave pets in vehicles. • Firearms are subject to state law. For regulations check the website. • Off-road driving is illegal. ATVs and UTVs are not permitted on any park roads. • Camp only at designated sites. Permits are required for all overnight backcountry trips and all river trips.

Emergencies call 911

Emergencies call 911



Driving distances to park sites					
Quarry Visitor Center:			Canyon Visitor Center:		
Canyon Visitor Center	29mi	47km	Quarry Visitor Center	29mi	47km
Deerledge Park	80mi	129km	Deerledge Park	51mi	82km
Echo Park	66mi	106km	Echo Park	37mi	60km
Gates of Lodore	135mi	217km	Gates of Lodore	106mi	171km
Harpers Corner	50mi	80km	Harpers Corner	31mi	50km
Jones Hole	45mi	72km	Jones Hole	33mi	53km
Jesse Morris Cabin	10mi	16km	Jesse Morris Cabin	38mi	61km
Rainbow Park	25mi	40km	Rainbow Park	46mi	74km
Ruptle Ranch	30mi	48km	Ruptle Ranch	51mi	82km
Split Mountain	4mi	6km	Split Mountain	32mi	51km

More Information
Dinosaur National Monument
PO Box 128
Jensen, UT 84035
435-781-7700
www.nps.gov/dino

Dinosaur National Monument is one of over 400 parks in the National Park System. To learn more about national parks visit www.nps.gov.

 **National
Park Foundation**
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www.nationalparks.org

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BIGHORN SHEEP climb canyon walls to avoid predators.



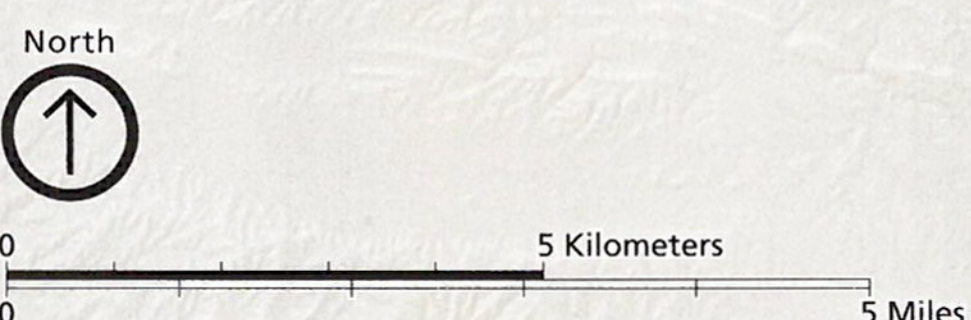
ENDANGERED FISH SPECIES swim in the Green and Yampa rivers: (left to right) Humpback chub, Colorado pikeminnow, Razorback sucker, and Bonytail chub.

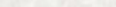









Dinosaur fossils can be seen only at the Quarry Exhibit Hall area. No camping allowed on Harpers Corner Road.





Harpers Corner Road closed to cars at Plug Hat Butte during winter.



OSPREY make
their home at
the Green and
Yampa rivers
NPS / JACOB W. FRANK



- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--------------------|---|----------------|
|  | Paved road |  | Distance indicator |  | Ranger station |
|  | Unpaved road |  | Trail |  | Picnic area |
|  | Unpaved road
(high-clearance
vehicles only) |  | Rapids |  | Nature trail |
|  | | | | | |
- Many unpaved roads are impassable when wet.
- Back to contents

-  Wheelchair-accessible
-  Campground (water available summer only)
-  Primitive campground
-  River/backcountry campsite (permit required)